

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, acknowledging that the priority documents have been received, reviewing and initialing the Information Disclosure Statement, and accepting the drawings filed on December 23, 2003.

I. Status of Claims

Claims 1-22 are currently pending in the application. This Amendment amends claims 1, 4, 9, 12-15, and 20, and addresses each point of objection and rejection raised by the Examiner. No new matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Rejections of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 4-9 and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has amended the claims to correct the insufficient antecedent basis and to clarify the language used in the claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections to claims 4-9 and 14-20.

III. Rejections of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1, 10-12, 21 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Rodriguez (US 2004/0008790 A1). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

“[A]n invention is anticipated if the same device, including all the claim limitations, is shown in a single prior art reference. Every element of the claimed invention must be literally present, arranged as in the claim. The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the patent claim.” MPEP § 2131.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections because Rodriguez does not disclose, suggest, or anticipate each and every feature of the amended claims. In particular, starting with independent claim 1, the claim recites:

An apparatus for recording multimedia data comprising:
a receiving unit for receiving a compressed multimedia signal;
a decoder unit for decoding the multimedia signal into a data stream having a predetermined format;
a data compression unit for reducing a data amount of the data stream by a certain amount and encoding the reduced data stream;
a compression select unit for setting a compressibility of the data compression unit,
wherein the data compression unit *reduces the data amount according to a compressibility set by the compression select unit using at least one of frame reduction, format conversion, and resolution reduction.*

Applicant respectfully submits that Rodriguez does not anticipate a “compression select unit” as recited in the amended claims. Specifically, Rodriguez does not disclose, teach, or suggest a compression select unit that “reduces the data amount according to a compressibility set by the compression select unit using at least one of frame reduction, format conversion, and resolution reduction”.

In exemplary embodiments of the present invention, the compression select unit generates a control signal that enables (i.e., selects) at least one of the frame setting unit (removes even-numbered frames), the format conversion unit (converts a video signal having 4:4:2 format to a video signal having 4:2:0), and the scaler (reduces resolution of the video signal) by controlling the data conversion unit. Therefore, the selected compression method may use only one of the above compression methods, or may use a combination of the above compression methods.

In contradistinction to Applicant's claimed invention, Rodriguez, teaches that a downconverter 212 employs one or more filters solely to perform downconversion of the chroma signal components from the 4:2:2 color format to the 4:2:0 color format (*see* paragraph [0044]). Rodriguez is silent with respect to selecting one or a combination of compression methods by enabling their respective units.

Therefore, Rodriguez does not disclose at least a control selection unit that generates a control signal that causes at least one of a frame setting unit, a format conversion unit, and a scaler to be enabled by controlling a data conversion unit. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 1, 10-12, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claim 12 comprises similar subject matter to that of claim 1 and is therefore distinguished from Rodriguez for reasons similar to those given above with respect to claim 1. Dependent claims 2-11 and 13-22 are distinguished from Rodriguez at least for the reasons given above by virtue of their dependence on independent claims 1 and 12, respectively.

IV. Rejections of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2-5, 7-9, 13-16, and 18-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Rodriguez. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Dependent claims 2-5, 7-9, 13-16, and 18-20 are distinguished from Rodriguez at least for the reasons given above by virtue of their dependence on independent claims 1 and 12, respectively.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 2-5, 7-9, 13-16, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 6 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Rodriguez, in view of Matsunaga et al. (U.S. 2002/0176503). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

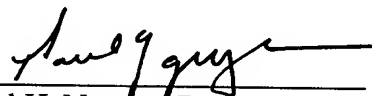
Dependent claims 6 and 17 are distinguished from Rodriguez at least for the reasons given above by virtue of their dependence on independent claims 1 and 12, respectively. Moreover, Matsunaga fails to cure the deficiencies of Rodriguez as discussed above.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 6 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is believed that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully Submitted,


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